

The McGill Daily

October 5, 1998
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Unconstitutionality, From Coast to Coast

BY JON BRICKER

Québec's differential tuition debate strikes a chord in British Columbia

Post-secondary students in British Columbia are quickly developing a keen interest in a constitutional battle being fought by McGill's students, right here in La Belle Province.

The recent announcement by the western province's NDP government that a differential tuition structure is being considered, has placed student hopes on the shoulders of McGill's SSMU-headed court case against differential fees in Quebec.

"The suit could set a huge precedent," said Vivian Hoffman, Student Society President at the

University of British Columbia. "We're following the case with great interest."

"This certainly makes our case more important," concurred Jeff Feiner, SSMU's VP External and Plaintiff in the case before provincial courts. "[Differential fees] have to be declared unconstitutional in all ten provinces."

But the education arm of BC's government is quick to point out that differential fees remain a long way off. "It is something we are looking at, but it's still too early in the game," said Ministry of Education spokesperson, Tara Wilson. "We're trying to get solu-

tions that don't include differential fees," she added.

Here in Québec, Feiner, and lawyer Guy Bertrand, are awaiting an appeal in the case which has seen them challenge the constitutional grounds of the 1997 provincial decision to implement differential tuition for out of province students.

As basis for the challenge, Feiner has cited Section 6 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guarantees Canadians freedom of mobility in seeking livelihood. "Education is a part of gaining a livelihood," said Hoffman, noting that for some graduate stu-



PHOTO FROM THE DAILY FILES

THE LOVELY ARTS BUILDING SET IN A PICTURESQUE WINTER LANDSCAPE. BUT, IS THE ARTS FACULTY IN CRISIS? THE DAILY REPORTS ON PAGE 6

dents, education is a livelihood in a very direct sense.

"Splitting the education into provinces is unwise," Hoffman added. She fears that differential fees would mean changes to BC's post-secondary population like those being witnessed at McGill where this year marked a 5 per cent drop in the out-of-province student population.

British Columbia's legislators are no more keen on implementing a system like Quebec's but are concerned that they may find themselves without a choice. "We're getting backed into a corner. The current system also limits mobility," said Wilson, whose Ministry cites rising tuition nationwide and fee deregulation in Ontario as cause for concern.

(continued on page 4)

President of SSMU Neglects Election Promises Duncan Reid has different priorities than in last year's campaign

BY DASHA
MERKUSHEVA

In the larger scheme of politics it is often the case that the election campaign promises are not held at all, or only in part, once the candidate gets to office. McGill, being a small sample of contemporary politics, seems to follow the games of its "big brother" in everything including memory lapses.

Last year's SSMU-presidential campaign of the current president Duncan Reid was based on three major points. First of all, a series of lectures by prominent figures were promised. Second, the plans were to create an access fund to provide bursaries for students with money problems. Third, an environmental commission was to be established this year.

"The idea is to use my ability to organize events to help bring



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

DUNCAN REID: FINGERS CROSSED BEHIND HIS BACK

high profile speakers to McGill," is the first of those promises stated by Reid.

Not many people know but one of the past lectures given during Concordia's Orientation Week

last week.

Not stopping at those results, the plans are, Reid promises "to present another event here at some point later during the year." But no one knows yet who the

was actually done in conjunction with McGill. The presentation by famous activist Maude Barlow was aided by \$2000 from the SSMU account and reserved SSMU's right to host the next joint lecture.

Also, SSMU aided in the organization of finance minister Paul Martin's visit, held in the Leacock Building

prominent figure is and if "later in the year" means never.

The election promise of providing students, who have reached their maximum in loans, with bursaries from a special fund, is still in the stage of development.

This issue will probably not be ready to go on the fall referendum, for right now the president's office is preparing a new constitution for the Student's Society to be posted at that time. Reid believes that once the constitution is approved, he can move on to other issues, such as his election promises.

Due to Reid's preoccupation with writing the constitution, he claimed the establishment of the environmental commission to encourage efficiency and recycling could not be a priority at this time.

Although he has not taken ac-

tion on his election promise of an environmental commission Reid says he has "spoken to a few people about that issue, not yet sure how we'll go about it."

But since the term began, Reid said a new serious issue has popped out of nowhere which sets everything else aside: the construction of a new student services facility and reassembling of the Shatner building. However, when election promises were made last year, all candidates were aware that the new building was going to be built.

"Our big priorities right now are long term planning and the approval of a new constitution, as well as the new building," Reid said.

What Reid seems to be saying is that it's only October and after the serious issues have been resolved the time will come for his election promises.

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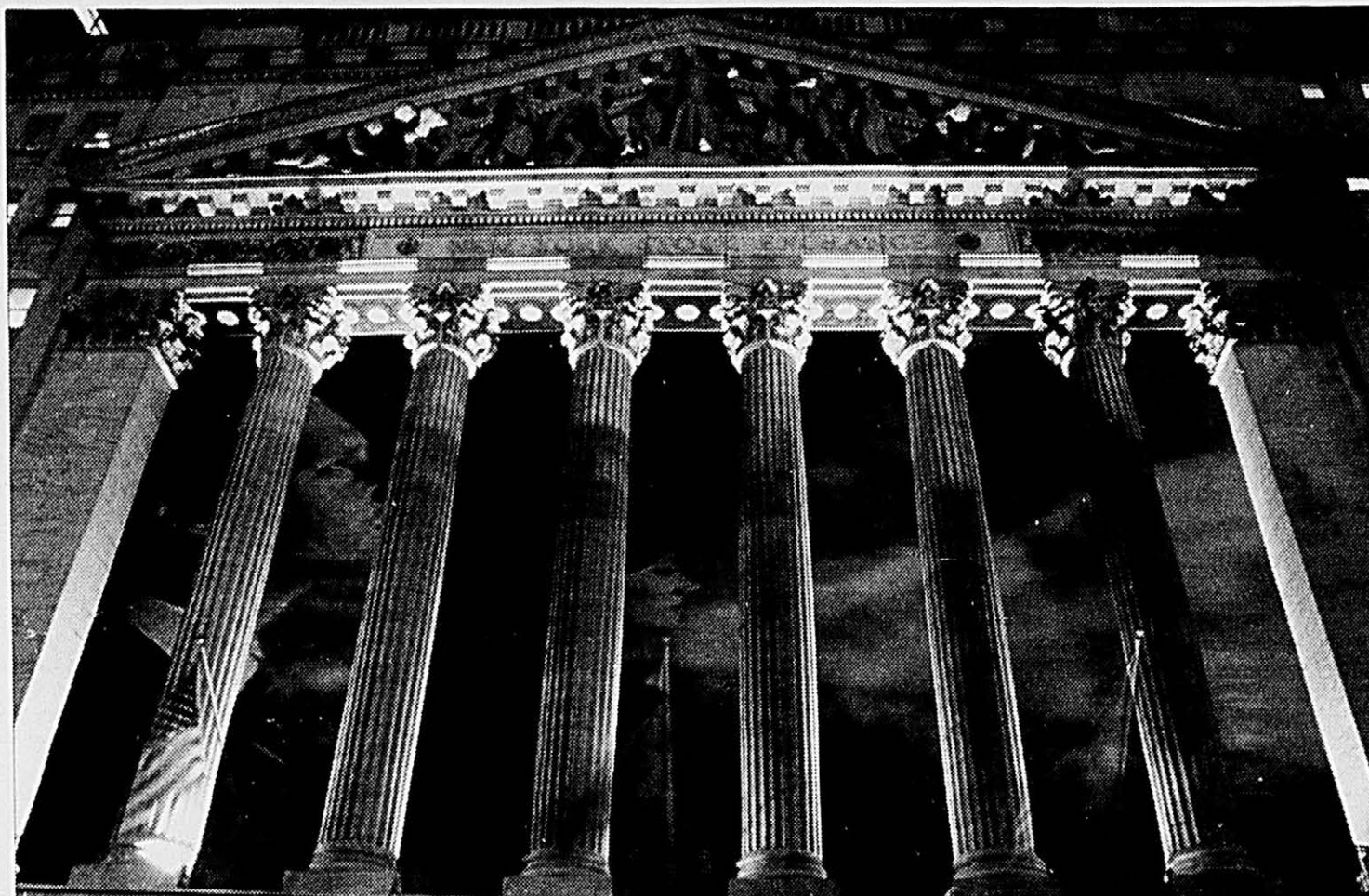
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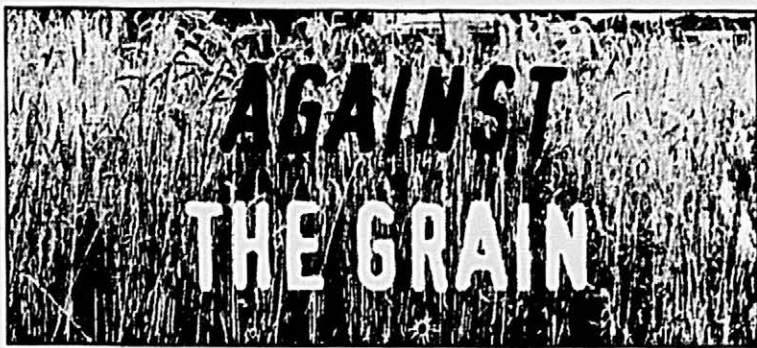
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Media Alert

The growing global monopoly of media is now more visible than in Canada. The innumerable detriments to participatory democracy posed by these developments, are issues that many of us aren't hearing about. Not surprising, as few media outlets are going to willingly provide evidence of their own illegitimacy.

A September *Z Magazine* interview with Ben Bagdikian, by David Barsamian, speaks to some of the most serious flaws in today's market-oriented journalism - Bagdikian is a Pulitzer prize winning journal-

ist and editor, former Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, and author of *The Media Monopoly*.

Let's review some of the insights provided in the interview, before I discuss just how pertinent they are to media in Canada - most notably print media. To begin, one of the most interesting points made by Bagdikian is the deplorable shift from issues to personalities in media coverage over the last 20 years.

The most lucid example, I am almost afraid to say, is the Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton sex 'scandal.' The coverage of this topic illustrates a basic component of contemporary news media: the gap between regular people's intelligence and the content of popular media.

Bagdikian alludes to the Clinton scandal: "A majority [of Americans according to opinion polls] say he may or may not have done it, but in any case, enough already. There are more important things. The media are going crazy about this. That's the so-called stupid public. The question now is, Which side is stupid, the media or the public?"

According to Bagdikian the fundamental problem lies in the fact that large media corporations have taken over news, broadcast, and print.

"The papers and their executives are judged by the stock increasing its value, by the dividends. The top executives have

huge stock options issued to them like monopoly money, for nothing, almost, and day by day they become millionaires. Their top

BY
JEFF
WEBBER

editors have stock options, and they watch the stock tickers more than they do the news tickers. . . . Their idea is the public is not interested in issues, they are interested in people, in celebrities," Bagdikian claims.

While referring to the advent of large media corporations, no other case study is more revealing than the situation of print media in Canada. Bagdikian's and Barsamian's assertions of corporate-led media, are frighteningly applicable to the infamous Conrad Black and his Canadian (although not exclusively) media leviathan.

The concentration of ownership in the Canadian newspaper business has reached an all-time high, with the three biggest chains now controlling 72 per cent of daily circulation, up from 57 per cent in 1980. Black's Hollinger Corporation and Southam Inc. are collectively the largest owners of Canadian newspapers in the country.

Southam Inc. publishes 33 daily newspapers from coast to coast in Canada. In addition, under the Hollinger Corporation,

Black is responsible for numerous other community newspapers. However, what is even more disconcerting about these statistics, is that the 33 daily newspapers, and the additional community papers, include monopolies in many of the affected towns and cities, including every major city in Canada, save Toronto. Think of the significance of every major urban centre in Canada having, as its central mold of public thinking, Conrad Black.

Several concrete indicators suggest just how deleterious such absolute control over public discourse via media can be. Black utilizes his capacity as the head of a virtual monopoly to the fullest extent.

For example, the track record of journalists and editors leaving after Southam takeovers is phenomenal. To cite a few examples, we can look to Joan Fraser at the *Montréal Gazette* who was the first to go, after almost two decades at the paper. She said the reason was a "change in approach" at the paper. Similarly, Bill Peterson, publisher of the *Kingston Whig-Standard* left because of editorial uncertainty. One more poignant example, is the *Ottawa Citizen* that lost both editor James Travers and the editorial page editor Peter Calamai upon Southam takeover.

Further, Black has controlled diversity on his editorial pages with intense fervour. This might not be of such grave consequence if multiple papers with multiple owners existed, that could express a real plurality in editorial stances. As it stands, however, if there is no diversity on Black's

editorial pages, it means that there is no diversity whatsoever in many communities and major cities across Canada. Several editorial writers, such as Chris Young have had their columns discontinued in Southam papers for criticizing Black's stance on various issues. In addition, Black has, on numerous occasions, displayed his own editorial columns on every editorial page of every Southam newspaper across Canada. The kind of overt power this signifies is alarming.

Finally, the dumbing-down of media coverage in an effort to minimize costs, and to play the stock markets to which Bagdikian speaks, is all too evident in Black's newspapers. A study done by University of Regina's School of Journalism and Communication, indicates that since Black took over the *Regina Leader-Post*, local beats on agriculture, health and civic politics have dropped 40 per cent, while recourse to cheaper wire material has jumped.

In the final analysis, the fact that as individuals one of our main resources for information is so inordinately controlled by one person, suggests that something ought to be done by the federal government to eliminate this threat to meaningful democracy. We cannot participate in an informed manner, if average citizens have no recourse to diverse information.

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BLOOD DRIVE DRAWS CRITICISM

SIMILAR TO YEARS BEFORE

BY REBECCA
ROSENBLUM

Hema-Quebec has taken over the management of the annual McGill blood drive, but is dogged by the same controversies as its predecessors.

McGill's fall

blood drive will go forth under the management of Hema Québec this year. This new organization has filled the gap left by the Red Cross's withdrawal from the blood collection and screening business. As Hema Québec will run the October 5-9 drive only a week after having taken control of blood drives in general, there have been questions on campus as to how the event will now be organized. The blood drive is under particular scrutiny in light of McGill's previously uneasy relationship with the Canadian Red Cross.

The difficulties were sparked two years ago, when then SSMU President Chris Carter initiated protests against the questionnaires the Red Cross gives to all potential donors. The questionnaire is designed to screen out any man who has engaged in gay sex in the last two decades. At the time, Carter said that the questionnaire was discriminatory and based on the false presupposition that queer men are the only group at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS.

The controversy resulted in the Red Cross canceling the drive for that year, to the outrage of both Carter's supporters and opponents. Now, two years later, Queer McGill has been

offered an information table at the blood drive so that they can distribute information without disturbing the drive. It remains to be seen how Hema Québec will handle both the mechanics of the blood drive and the potentially tense situation that surrounds it.

"It's just a name change from my point of view, not necessarily a change in their duties or procedures" said blood drive coordinator Farzana Nurmohamed.

She was echoed by her fellow coordinators, Lakhoo and Usman Sheikh. Lakhoo stated, "What it comes down to, with the blood drive, is that there are no changes. Well, the poster changed..."

According to all sources, the blood drive procedures, supplies, personnel and questionnaire will be exactly the same as in previous years. Carole Bennett, the Hema Québec representative explains that, "The government imposes the questionnaires...we can't eliminate them..."

In response to the idea that the forms are seen as discriminatory by the queer community, Bennett stated that, "We hope that they will understand

that it's not a question of discrimination but of public health. We don't have a choice, if we did we would do it another way. It's not the donors, it's their blood that is at risk."

The Queer McGill information table idea came from Karen Pelley, SSMU VP Internal. She explains that she "sent [Queer McGill] an invitation to set up an information table at the event...to distribute information on what they see as a problem."

"It was a relatively harsh letter...we'll give you a table, [so] just sit in the corner and be quiet....don't try anything," says Jawad Qureshi, the Administrator of Queer McGill.

The organizers of the event see the invitation in a more positive light. Sheikh states, "We haven't been deterring them from doing anything. We've been encouraging them to spread awareness."

At the same time, there is notable caution and nervousness on the part of all of the organizers as to exactly how things will go between the blood drivers and Queer McGill. Hopefully nothing controversial will happen, we're trying to keep it as cool as possible," remarks Sheikh.

"So far, we haven't heard anything [about potential problems at the drive] ...[protests] don't serve any purpose than to push donors away and so much blood is needed. We need 900-1000 units of blood a day in the

Western Quebec Region alone," says Bennett.

The loss of blood donation due to controversy seems to be the big fear, although Qureshi insists that "[Queer McGill] absolutely support[s] the blood drive, we want people to give blood, we just want to know why we're singled out as a community as high risk, when in fact heterosexual women are the fastest growing HIV positive group."

Although they do not plan to be anything but peaceful, the Queer McGill contingent does plan to be highly visible at the drive. "This year we're trying to repeat the same things [as last year]...we had so much support last year." The three things that they have planned are: painting blood drops on people's faces to create visibility and awareness of the issue, the collection of signatures of those who believe that the questionnaire is discriminatory and keeping track of how many potential units of blood have been lost because of it. "Last year, 150-200 [units] were lost," says Qureshi.

The drive runs from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. In addition to the Queer McGill table, the drive will have for the first time a table distributing information on how to go about donating bone marrow. Carole Bennett's last comment on the subject was simply, "So much blood is needed every day, just to respond to the demand. One donation could help to save the lives of four people."

Differential Tuition Fees

(continued from page 1)

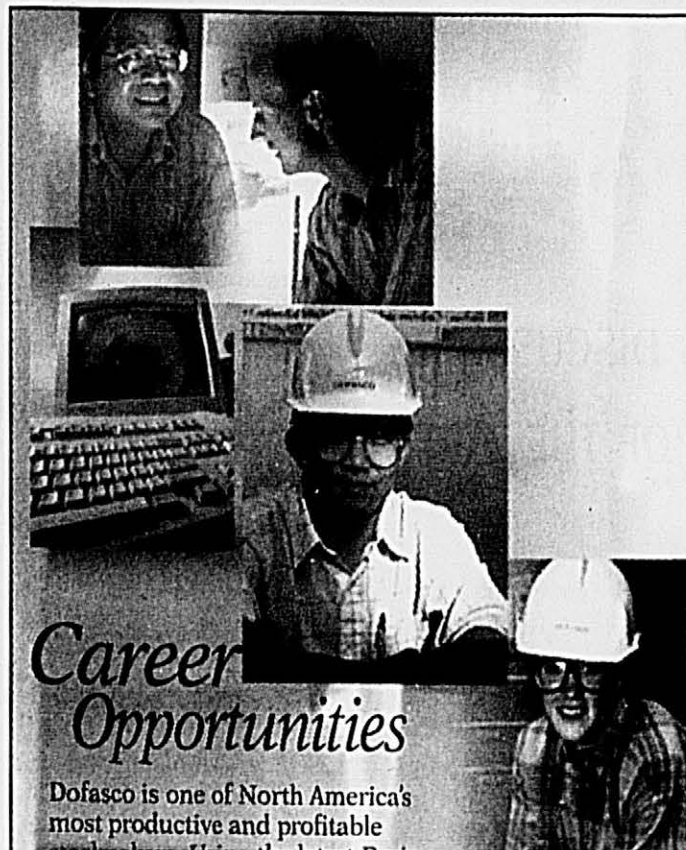
While tuition for Ontario students exceeds \$4000 in some places, a tuition freeze in BC holds fees at 1995's average of \$2500. British Columbia's system, which Wilson says will soon see in-province students competing with droves from out-of-province, also boasts loans for lower year students in the form of grants, and average graduate debt \$8000 below the Canadian average.

However, many in BC doubt that they will ever have to make use of the legal precedent that the SSMU is trying to set. "I see this more as a political scare tactic," said Hoffman.

"We'd like to see the federal government do something first," said Wilson to that end, proposing federal regulation of tuition and improved grant programs. "Their Millennium Fund is money, but it's going to help less than 2 per cent of the population," she said of the recently announced post-secondary initiative.

In the meantime, representatives at UBC are readying themselves should differentiation come in to play. Feiner has already met with the UBC Student Society Executive to discuss their stake in the SSMU case, while the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) are lending a hand in voicing the pleas of students in both provinces. CASA already has plans to make inter-province mobility the focus of an upcoming campaign.

Although British Columbia's Advanced Education Minister, Andrew Petter, announced this summer that differential fees were being considered, there has yet to be action taken by in the House or by the striking of committees. "Differential fees," Wilson said, "would be a last resort."



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Arts and the Future

FACULTY AND STUDENTS DISCUSS THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS

BY HUGH ODLING-SMEE

SUSAN GEORGE
OF D

When the intrepid visitor arrives at McGill, usually following a manic journey through the traffic of Montréal, their first sight will be the majestic Arts building, standing proud over campus, the McGill standard fluttering atop its greening dome.

This geographical positioning, right at the heart of the University, flanked by the Leacock building, would give the impression that the Arts, that is the study of humanity in its many guises, has a foremost position at McGill. However, questions are being raised about the position of the Arts at McGill.

In these days of "efficiency drives" and tuition fees, and education funding being used as a "political football" as one student representative recently commented, it is now argued in some quarters that Arts is reacting under the pressure of these difficult times.

Evidence given of this trend at McGill is the position of the Classics department, which has recently been incorporated into the History department, leaving the students in the faculty one small room in which to find texts. That small room constitutes the Classics library. Indeed, if one "logs on" to the Classics web page, one is greeted by the words "don't worry, we haven't gone away." The situation within the Classics department is held up as indicative of the prevailing trend within the University as a whole.

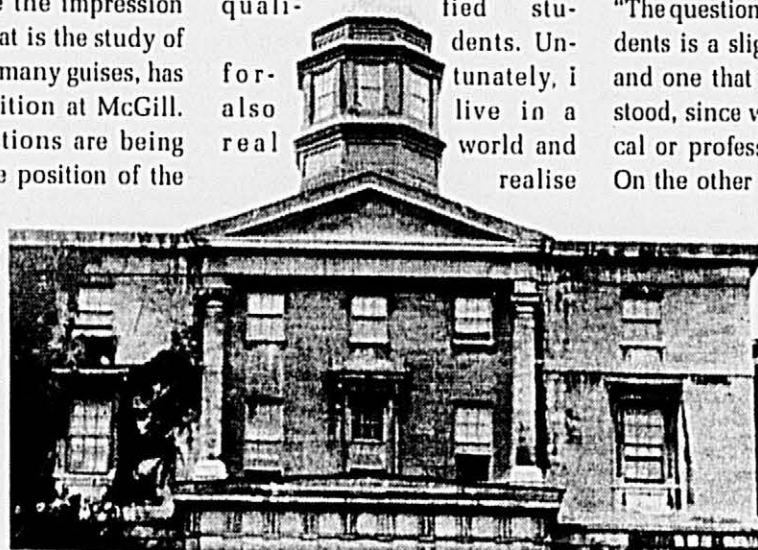
As one student put it, "If the Arts as a whole is under-funded, because it is seen as less important in the modern world, then, under those terms, Classics gets it worst of all."

Another view on the situation is that Arts stands shoulder to shoulder with faculties across the university and is not, in itself, under threat. Dean of Arts Carmen Miller explained, "In my view Arts is not in a precarious position within the University. It is at the heart of any university and at the heart of this university." He

points out that the faculty has recently appointed two new teachers to the so-called marginal subjects of Classics and Art History.

On the subject of funding, Prof. Miller comments, "I believe education is a social good, a social investment, like primary, secondary (academic, technical and professional) education, that governments ought to support fully. It should be open to all qualified students. Unfortunately, I live in a world and realise

for-also real



that this is not likely to happen in the short run. Meanwhile we must endeavour to find the resources we require to provide the quality education we believe we can and must maintain. This may entail higher tuition fees."

"This begs the question why do so many students choose the, traditionally less lucrative pursuit of the Arts, when one History professor described the relationship between the Arts and the labour market as, "a case of massive over-production, far outstripping demand." This year 5209 full-time arts students study at McGill. Why do they choose to do this?

The answer perhaps lies in the passion that many Arts students feel for their subject. One Teaching Assistant (TA) put it like this, "I get paid \$50 a week, but I feel it's a privilege to work in the Arts." The only problem she found was that, due to funding restrictions, there are not enough TAs in her department to go round, leaving many in the situation of having to cope with over 100 students. But even allowing for that fact, it was still "a pleasure to work here."

One English graduate put her feelings thus: "The Arts give people

choice, more choice than many realise. My parents were not too supportive of my studying English, but if I'd done Law or something similar, I would have been locked into a cycle of life it would have been difficult to get out of. As an arts graduate I now have the choice to work in many areas."

This is a point echoed in greater detail by Carmen Miller: "The question of jobs for Arts students is a slightly complex one, and one that is often misunderstood, since we are not a technical or professional programme. On the other hand, not only are

Arts degrees prized as (often) required for entry into professional programmes, but the career possibilities and realities for Arts students are as broad and diverse as human expression and behaviour,

which is the focus of arts, the ability to communicate, to analyse verbal and visual representations, to understand the social complexities."

"Applied ethics, even forensic linguists, are but two of many examples. Even business leaders will state publicly that they prefer Arts students for senior executive positions. In a world increasingly dominated by information, we need people who can communicate, analyse and decode verbal and visual messages; we need people who can imagine alternatives, so that we can make choices, informed, ethical choices on how we can live in harmony with our physical world and realise the potential of the new technologies."

The study of the Arts is obviously, to those who practice it, enormously important and rewarding. However, the situation within the University at large does not seem to echo these fine sentiments. One professor, who did not wish to be named, criticized what he saw as apathy among McGill elite bureaucracy.

"The ship is going down, and we're all in the ballroom having more champagne. Nobody in positions of command seems to notice what is happening in this university. The bookstore is a very good example. Students walk into the first floor and see, not books, but rucksacks with the McGill logo on them. And now we hear that Chapters owns it, which is, I believe a definite profit-making organization. Bernard Shapiro was brought here with one purpose, to downsize the organization. And the Arts is the first to get it."

Emphasising the relationship between academic and support staff the professor continued, "we sit and watch whilst the support staffs pay is frozen for six years, and we don't feel guilty about accepting pay-rises ourselves. There is no spirit of community here. There is a gap in the McGill smile and we keep plugging it up, but it won't go away."

Nobody seems to be arguing that the study of the Arts lacks either dedication or skill, but it appears that those within the university upper echelons are not heeding the feeling of disillusionment which is manifest within academic and student circles.

There seems to be three methods of dealing with the current situation. One: ignore it and hope that it goes away. Two: blame the prevailing economic climate and valiantly get on with the job with the tools at one's disposal. Or three: call for action in the face of what appears to be an attack on one of the pillars of learning and wisdom.

Which of these methods will be adopted by staff and students remains to be seen, but it is certain that the bedraggled traveler who is deposited at the Roddick Gates, casting their eyes across the calm vista of McGill, have very little idea of the passionate turmoil that ferments within the offices and lecture theatres that look down upon them.

Globalization and the neo-capitalist agenda are threatening democracy, warned Susan George in an urgent tone.

George, a specialist in world economic issues, spoke eloquently to a rapt audience of about 200 people at UQAM. In her lecture, she condemned corporate decision makers, calling them "vampires", and labelled their latest plan, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) "a nail in the coffin of democracy."

George is a big name in the world of NGOs, as the President of the Observatory of Globalization in Paris, the Assistant Director of the Transnational Institute (TNI) in Amsterdam, and member of the Board of Directors of both Greenpeace France and Greenpeace International. American-born George also has an impressive collection of books to her name.

Her most famous book, *A Fate Worse Than Debt*, which Jesse Jackson called "an international call to action" gained international acclaim for its meticulous research and its radical analysis of Third World poverty and envi-

Barrin

By CARL WARREN
AND VITO LABATE

TORONTO (CUP) The Law Society of Upper Canada has restructured its bar-admission process to allow for more flexibility in measuring exam performance.

The recently-approved overhaul will extend assistance to special needs students by allowing more exam-writing time, accessible test locations and the re-establishment of an appeals process for students who fail the test.

The appeal process will involve a discretionary criterion that will permit the Law Society to admit students who originally flunked the bar. A similar process had been abandoned in 1990 when changes to the test and law school curriculum were



Globalization Spells End of Democracy

WARNS PUBLIC

DANGERS OF NEO-LIBERALISM

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

ronmental degeneration in the 1980s. In this book, George discusses the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank's neo-liberal programs aimed at restructuring the economies of certain countries in order to help them pay off their ballooning debt. She names them as the chief culprits in declining living standards and increasing income disparity in the poor countries of the world.

Almost 10 years after the release of *A Fate Worse Than Debt*, Susan George is still considered an expert in leading international issues. Her main focus and topic of her lecture was the danger of globalization.

"Globalization emerged politically from the fall of the Soviet Empire and Berlin Wall," said George. Although no fan of the Soviet system, George conceded that it brought about healthy competition between contrasting capitalist and communist ideologies.

"What came out of this competition was the Welfare State...But all of a sudden (with the collapse of the USSR) there was no debate between the two

systems, this allowed triumphant capitalism to spread all over the world."

Although George emphasized in one of her books that she is not a conspiracy theorist, she claims that "Large amounts of money have been spent on spreading the

there are "daily efforts of millions and millions of dollars" to convince the public through newspapers and books, radio shows, official reports and even universities, that globalization is good for the world.

Globalization and its accompanying ideology Neo-liberalism are not natural or normal, she maintained. They are about declining living standards and the fall of the welfare state around the world. "Inequalities are growing everywhere. Neo-liberalism is about winners and losers. Empirical studies have shown that in general globalization enriches the top 20% of society and the bottom 80% loses. This is a trend, the world over, that is transferring wealth from the bottom to the top."

She condemns corporate deci-

sion makers for their greed, but she further denounces the capitalist ideologies that allow for it.

"Competition is the [their] supreme value...they want total freedom of investment across all borders, total access to national resources including the right to exploit and destroy them, cultural homogeneity as much as possible - if they can sell McJewels, McHairdos, McStuff across the world, why not?"

George described the MAI as "an attempt to give all power to transnational corporations through power over capital...If governments sign this in its present state, they are renouncing their sovereignty."

In a globalized world, George says, "all countries are potentially on the verge of collapse." The mood swings of the speculative capital markets has left the world teetering on the edge of a global depression.

"Less than a year ago," said George, "the World Bank was calling Indonesia and Korea models for the world." Capital flight can literally snatch the rug out from under an economy that doesn't have the resources to buy

up their own flooded currency. This is evident in recent developments in the Brazilian economy especially, and the Russian and Japanese economies are ones to watch.

Recently, even Finance Minister Paul Martin is recognizing the imminent collapse that George warns about. Martin is beginning to realize that the world economic system is out of control. He has made comments about the need for stronger regulation of the international money markets and called for G7 leadership in the midst of the world economic crisis. He is now admitting there is a "direct correlation between problems that countries are experiencing internally and globalization."

"Globalization," says George, "is the most dangerous topic. More dangerous than cholera, terrorism or the fall of the stock market. But we shouldn't panic...We must resist the idea of market as god, and although I think that the market serves a useful function, I think that society should dictate to the economy how it should behave, not the other way around."



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

SUSAN GEORGE LAST THURSDAY AT UQAM belief that globalization is natural and normal." George added that

ing minority lawyers

LAW SOCIETY REVAMPS BAR ADMISSION PROCESS

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And, she says, minority and women's groups were not consulted.

But others say the questionable process was worth obtaining speedy results.

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Still, critics outside legal circles argue the problems of bar admission extend beyond protocol. Joan Grant-Cummings, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, argues the law society must also

address broader questions such as the socioeconomic barriers faced by law students.

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Others say the legal curriculum in most schools represents an entirely different world view than that held by some students.

"Law is based on a different culture," said Paul Okalik, an Inuit lawyer who practices in the Arctic. "I grew up in a totally different way, exposed to a separate set of laws."

Maude Barlow on Public Empowerment

AUTHOR SHOWS THE PROBLEMS, BUT PROVIDES SOLUTIONS?

BY TERNA GYUSE

Maude Barlow's lecture began on an optimistic note: "I think we have an absolutely unparalleled opportunity to change the course of history right now. There is a crisis of legitimacy on the part of those who have told us this was good for us."

"This" being globalization, and all the things we're told we need to do to maintain competitiveness and survive in a business world dominated by global trading and multinational investment. Barlow spoke on September 24, the last lecturer in the Concordia Student Union's "Catalysts for Change" speaker series. She went on to sketch what she feels are the key financial issues of our time.

First, privatization. All over the world, hundreds of billions of dollars of government assets and programs are being handed over to the private sector. (We're told that governments are unresponsive, unimaginative, and inefficient where the private sector is dynamic, cost-effective and flexible.)

Deregulation

A second issue is deregulation: whenever possible, state controls over economic activity are being scaled back or eliminated. As an example, Barlow told the story of one of her students at Ottawa University who, trying to research Canada's regulation of the energy sector, discovered that the regulatory body no longer exists.

Trillions of dollars worth of capital moves around the world every day. Until the "Asian crisis" started coming home to roost in Euro-American financial markets, conventional wisdom was that this was a good thing. According to Barlow, 60% of private banking is held in offshore, untaxed accounts. Tax avoidance, she says, involves greater sums every year than narcotics.

The third issue, which the other two serve, is the consolidation and expansion of the influence of transnational corporations (TNCs). Already, the 200 largest corporations control more wealth than the poorest 80% of the

world's people.

TNCs are the obvious beneficiaries of the above-mentioned privatizing and deregulating trends. They are able to cheaply acquire assets built up with public money and turn them to private profit, unchecked by government regulation.

Barlow spoke of a "new royalty" of chief executive officers and politicians who speak a common language across previous North-South divides. It is courtesy amongst this class that leads Lloyd Axworthy, who once marched for civil rights at Selma, to write a letter of apology to Suharto (former leader of Indonesia) following embarrassing protests against his regime by Canadians.

One of the primary responsibilities of government all over the world is quickly coming to be the guaranteeing of rights and freedoms of corporate citizens. So we all understand that a Team Canada mission is intended to introduce Canadian business to opportunities in China, Indonesia, or Latin America.

Legal Agreements for Free Trade

Maude Barlow sees transnationals moving to consolidate this happy situation for themselves in legally binding terms: NAFTA, APEC, the EU, and the most advanced of these charters of corporate rights and freedoms, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

The MAI goes beyond previous trade agreements by seeking to establish TNCs on an equal footing with nation-states in disputes. (Actually, corporations could be in a better position, as nation states would not be able to sue them.)

Under the terms of the MAI, it would be impossible to force a corporation operating in your country to hire locally or use local raw materials; impossible to compel it to reinvest profits; impossible to force it to respect local labour or environmental law. The MAI would make it illegal to favour a domestic bid for a contract over a foreign one.

If a corporation at any point should feel that its interests have been harmed by a national government, it could sue that government before a panel of trade lawyers who would rule on the case strictly in terms of the treaty.

Example: NAFTA's Chapter 11 is a working example of this investor-state regulatory mechanism. In the spring of 1997, Canada banned the use of MMT, a manganese fuel-additive described by an earlier, oppositional incarnation of our own Jean Chrétien as a "dangerous neurotoxin." The company that makes MMT, US-based Ethyl Corporation, sued the Canadian government for \$350 million in lost profits.

Their arguments before the panel had nothing to do with disputing the toxic effects of MMT, but simply stated that Canada was preventing Ethyl from making money in violation of free trade.

Excluding the Public

In July, Canada settled out of court, overturning the ban, writing an apology to the sensitive management at Ethyl Corp, and paying the company \$20 million for the profits lost during the brief ban.

The whole process is closed to the public, so it took a Globe & Mail request under Freedom of Information to even find out that this had happened. When the Council of Canadians attempted to find out how many other cases like this exist, they got back a thick document, mostly whited out.

Now in return, the Multilateral Agreement on Investments guarantees nation states the power to...

...exactly. Negotiations around the MAI were kept secret until details leaked. Under public scrutiny from activist groups all over the world, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) leaders were unable to conclude the treaty in April 1998. Negotiations begin

again this month, however.

"Governments have abdicated their responsibility," Barlow says. But what can we do about it?

She proposes to begin to turn the tide by initiating what she calls citizen's politics. She borrows an image from Vandana Shiva, of the seedkeeper, referring to communities establishing communal registers of seeds to prevent multinational agribusiness from patenting them instead.

"We are seedkeepers of democracy," says Barlow. What Barlow means by this statement is somewhat vague.

According to Barlow, we need to seek alternatives; to insist on citizen's rights, on state obliga-

tions, on corporate accountability; to establish a binding frame for TNC transparency; to tax speculative capital.

As Barlow wrapped up she was asked about the optimism in her lecture, on the timing of the new dawn. "It won't be easy. It won't happen in my lifetime. It won't happen in yours," she replied.

The Council of Canadians is beginning this process, this alternative vision of globalization this month. Maude Barlow and others will be holding a teach-in in Montréal on October 14th. For information, call Michael Pinsonneault at 849-0386

Daily Editorial Board Elections Calendar

Oct. 8:

- Copy (2)
- Office- Online Manager
- Culture
- News

Oct. 15:

- Features
- Layout
- Co-Ordinating Culture

Stop by the Daily Office in Shatner B-03 for details

Russia's Bleak Future

Economists, political leaders, and academics assess the situation

BY Yael Friedman

Seven years ago, with the drawing back of the iron curtain and the collapse of an old and unsuccessful Communist regime, a new hope dawned on the Russian people and the rest of the world. The coup that promised to put an end to the antiquated socio-political policies of the preceding government also had to present a new, viable economic model that would appease the Russian people.

Under president Boris Yeltsin, a switch was made from the old, unsuccessful economy to what seemed like the logical choice for a new democracy - a free market system. The transformation to capitalism was widely approved around the world and received the official, and more importantly the financial, support of the International Monetary Fund, and the United States. Thus the "new" Russia was apparently ready to embrace capitalism.

Or was it? Since the change in government in 1991 Russia has experienced an unprecedented economic collapse that has plunged the country into a situation that the president and government seem completely powerless to ameliorate.

A close look at the past seven

years shows that Russia was ill-equipped to implement the new economic reforms it had. Right now the economy is 20% of what it was seven years ago, and 75% of the population lives at or below the poverty line. This is the worst peacetime economic devastation that Russia has ever seen.

So how did such a seemingly good idea turn out to be so disastrous? Could it have been avoided? And after a reflection on who is to blame it is even more important to ask what should be done now, what should the next step be?

Taking into account the benefit of hindsight, many experts believe that a large measure of this collapse could have been avoided had the Americans aided the Russians into a gradual transition rather than an immediate break from the past Communist regime into a free-market system.

When Yeltsin came into office he was facing a choice between a gradual economic reform where a deeply centralized economy would eventually and slowly develop into a free-market system or a quicker "overnight" transformation that would be fruitful if successful but could also be extremely risky. The rapid "get rich quick" version appealed to the young, ambitious economists whose job it was to implement the

new economic reforms.

According to University of Pennsylvania economics Ph.D candidate (and Russian expatriate) Anna Rubinchik, "The step by step reform presumed a more predictable outcome, but it required long political stability - 'a consistent doctor' - and longer time was needed 'to get there.'" Thus, a swift change was underway with the great financial assistance of the I.M.F. and the backing of the United States.

Other experts believe that the U.S. supported all of the post-Communist reforms, both political and economic, almost dogmatically because it was in the name of democracy. It seemed, according to the policies appropriated by the Clinton Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department, that the fall of Communism was the solution to the problems in Russia and that successful reforms would naturally follow.

When asked about the role of the U.S. and the collapse of the Russian economy, in a recent interview conducted by Charlie Rose (an interview program on the American PBS), Steven Solnick, a Professor of Political Science at Columbia University (and the author of *Stealing the State*), replied, "I don't think it was inevitable. I think we de-

clared victory too soon, and we are now facing the consequences of that. And I think for five years, we, American officials, went to Russia and praised the reformers. We endorsed the reformers. We wanted to keep the reformers in power . . . and they weren't reforming. They weren't implementing economic reforms."

What was really going on was that rather than the money going into the hands of the middle class and the rest of the population who truly needed it, there was an extraordinary transfer of wealth from the Russian State into the hands of a very small group of individuals. The money has gone into the hands of an oligarchy who have since been termed "robber barons" in Russia. Meanwhile money kept pouring in through loans from the IMF as did support from the U.S., under the Clinton Administration.

Russia, from within its economic black hole is now looking to its long time supporters with a quizzical expression. Stephen Cohen, a Russian Studies Professor at New York University, and resident expert at CBS in New York, thinks that "if we continue to say to the Russians 'stay the course, pursue these policies, don't change course, while Russian children are dying, . . . Russia may become the cemetery of

America's moral reputation."

The next few months in Russia are going to be crucial to its long-term economic future. A few weeks ago President Yeltsin appointed Yevgeny Primakov Prime Minister who was then approved by the Russian Duma.

According to Primakov is "the ex-Soviet Union's last intelligence chief, its last and hopelessly ineffectual central bank boss and its last prodding head of Gosplan, the state Planning Agency that *The Economist* had become a byword for self-deluding statistics and all that made Communist economics ridiculous."

It is now up to this man to come up with some sort of an economic plan to help lift Russia out of the rut it is in. Rubinchik, believes that "A successful policy has to rely on the acceptance and 'trust' of the people, which is so hard to regain after centuries of broken hope."

While the world awaits the next moves of both Russia and the IMF, it is quietly getting colder in Russia and the people who are increasingly running out of money, food, and in some places even electricity, are looking forward to a winter, and the foreseeable future, that appear to be very bleak.

Corporate classrooms

University of Victoria agrees to compromise on naming of new centre

By Mary McVallis and Miguel MacDonald

VICTORIA (CUP) Classrooms in the University of Victoria's Centre for Innovative Teaching, slated to open in January, are still nameless thanks to pressure from students who oppose naming the rooms after corporate donors to the project.

University President David Strong agreed to take the proposed corporate room names back to the drawing board following a board of governors meeting last week when student representatives Sandra Guarascio and Ritu Mahil voiced their opposition to the plan.

The proposed names for the rooms include the BC Tel-Royal Bank of Canada lecture theatre, a Fletcher Challenge Canada seminar room, and a B.C. Sugar Imasco Limited reception room.

The university's recently-revised recognition policy says that

a minimum \$125,000 donation warrants a named classroom for the donor.

"It would be insulting to walk into a room recognizing the Royal Bank of Canada when we're going to be indebted to this institution for 20 years," Guarascio told last week's meeting.

Board members directed Strong to explore naming the rooms after an individual within each organization instead of its corporate entity. If the corporations agree to the change, each donating organization will still be recognized on the centre's donor wall.

The decision to reconsider the plan was met with resounding applause from students who packed the gallery.

The issue has highlighted how private donations are becoming increasingly important to the university. Private-sector contribu-

tions represent 60 per cent of the building's \$3.7-million fund while the provincial government kicked in \$1.13 million when the project first got underway.

And with \$6.3 billion in cuts to federal transfer payments to the provinces since 1993, in addition to the tuition freeze, the provincial government has its hands tied when it comes to new expenditures.

In other provinces, cash-strapped universities have already turned to naming classrooms and buildings after donors. At the University of Toronto, for example, one professor is sponsored by the Royal Bank and students study in the Xerox library. At the University of Calgary, students have courses in the Husky Oil classroom and charge their books in a library with a Petro-Canada logo on its doors.

But critics warn that naming

classrooms after corporate donors and other similar tactics are a threat to the university's academic integrity.

Richard Tones, a member of the students' society at the University of Victoria, is opposed to the proposed corporate-classrooms at the Centre for Innovative Teaching because the donors in question have enjoyed large tax breaks.

According to the *Globe and Mail's* Report on Business database, the amount of deferred taxes saved by Canadian Pacific alone - one of the donors - was well over \$1.3 billion. "There is enough money there to reestablish the funding we've lost for the next five years," said Tones.

Guarascio agrees. "It's appalling that we are recognizing corporations that have cheated us out of the taxes that they owe, let alone the taxes that people feel they should be paying. That's money that's not coming back to the provinces."

Dr. Alexander Briggs, who also

opposed the proposal, says naming classrooms may eventually lead to corporate-sponsored classes and teachers.

"I view the naming of academic buildings and classrooms after corporations as another glissade on the slippery slope toward loss of academic freedom," Briggs wrote in a recent letter to the university's board of governors.

Strong, however, says corporate donations to the university needn't raise alarm bells. "Corporations will never, in my mind, be big enough to significantly drive the direction of the university," he said.

And while students like Guarascio hope Strong's promise to reconsider the classroom proposal may lead to a general review of corporate donations in general, Strong places less emphasis on his concession.

"All we did was accept a motion that I go back and try again," he said.

Barring minority lawyers

By CARL WARREN AND VITO LABATE

LAW SOCIETY REVAMPS BAR ADMISSION PROCESS

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Anti-Pepsi Banner Taken Down

TORONTO (CUP) - "Pepsi owns York." That's the message a couple of York University students wanted to get across to football fans at the school's homecoming game last week.

But the banner proclaiming that statement, which the students had hung on the fence surrounding York's stadium, was

taken down by school officials just 40 minutes after kickoff.

"We aren't doing anything that Pepsi isn't already doing," said Yves Zhender, a fourth-year environmental studies student who helped put up the sign to protest York's recent 10-year exclusivity contract with Pepsi.

Zhender and Diane Simon, the

other student behind the sign, say they had the right to express their opinion at the stadium because it belongs to all students, not just paid sponsors.

"This (stadium) is mine as much as anyone else's," said Simon. Zhender added the incident represented an information war between Pepsi and students about who gets

to inform the public.

But an official from the university's athletics department, who asked the students to remove the banner, says he was simply enforcing York's regulations about signs at sporting events.

The incident has caused some York students to wonder about their ability to publicly protest

York's contract with Pepsi.

But the university maintains students can protest the deal provided they comply with the rules of the institution.

"If students want to protest the Pepsi deal... they can book (York University space)," said Sine MacKinnon, York's media relations officer. —Angela Pacienza

APEC Protester Sues

VANCOUVER (CUP) - A law student who was arrested at last year's APEC summit has launched a class-action suit against Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Finance Minister Lloyd Axworthy and former ambassador to Indonesia Gary Smith.

The suit, which was announced by University of British Columbia student Craig Jones last Tuesday, alleges the three officials conspired to limit the constitutional rights of protesters during the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders.

According to Jones' statement of claim, any other interested parties who choose to join the class-action lawsuit may do so. "What it allows us to do really is to roll up a whole bunch of different actions that otherwise wouldn't be able to proceed on their own,"

Jones said.

Jones was arrested for refusing to remove a protest sign during the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation conference held at the University of British Columbia last November. The RCMP arrested 49 people at the meeting.

He says he decided to launch the suit after documents surfaced that suggest Ottawa ordered the RCMP to limit protests at the summit to avoid embarrassment to then-Indonesian President Suharto.

Although it may take years before the lawsuit is heard, Jones says it was necessary to pursue it because the RCMP complaints commission, which is investigating security measures at the summit, has no legal jurisdiction.

— Sarah Galashan

NEWS BRIEFS

Library takes ads

WINDSOR, Ont. (CUP) - The city's public library will soon be selling advertising space, in what is believed to be the first time an Ontario public library has opened its doors to advertisers.

The library will be the site of an advertising pilot project consisting of banners hanging in the escalators, free-standing displays and wall-mounted posters.

"It's becoming more popular in the public sector to look for new ways to generate funds for expenses," said Virginia Kampe, the library's fund development officer.

Over the past three years, Windsor's public library system has experienced a \$250,000 cut in provincial funding, resulting in a 15 per cent staff cut.

"The sky's the limit," said account executive Lee Towers, of Select Marketing Group. "With 90,000 patrons per month going

through that door I do believe that there is a strong audience for advertising."

As for what kinds of ads will be placed, the Windsor Public Library Board, made up of 10 community members, will decide what ads to place in the library. "They will all be in good taste and acceptable to the community," Kampe said.

But news of the upcoming ads has been met with hesitation from some library patrons.

"I would like the ads to be clearly identified so I don't think I'm reading information when I am just reading a sales pitch," said University of Windsor Professor Pat Lewis.

Staff at the University of Windsor's library say although they've been dealt substantial cuts to their operating and acquisition budget, they're not planning to follow the public library's lead. —Sheri DeCarlo

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Place: Room 232, Leacock Bldg.

For more information:
Consulate General of Japan at Montreal
Tel: 866-3429

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Mon., Oct. 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Tues., Oct. 13, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 6, 3:00-4:00 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 15, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 7, 11:30-12:30 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 16, 9:00-10:00 a.m.*
Thurs., Oct. 8, 1:00-2:00 p.m.	Mon., Oct. 19, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

There will be further seminars offered. A seminar can also be arranged at your convenience. Please contact the Student Aid Office at 398-6013/14 for more information.

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